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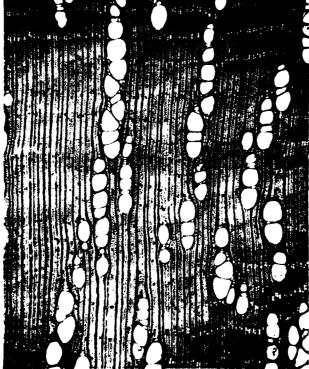
Wood Anatomy of the Neotropical Sapotaceae.

XII. Neoxythece.

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Abstract

The genus Neoxythece consists of a small number of species concentrated in the Amazon and northern South America with a single species native to the West Indies. Anatomically and physically, the woods investigated here appear to be a very closely related group. The woods are light brown, very heavy, and characterized anatomically by their narrow banded parenchyma, pores in radial-echelon arrangement, abundant vascular tracheids, long vessel members, and the presence of silica in the wood rays. Woods of Caramuri could not be anatomically distinguished from Neoxythece and have been included in the latter. It seems likely that Pseudoxythece of Aubreville will also be reduced to synonomy.

Preface

The Sapotaceae form an important part of the ecosystem in the neotropics; for example, limited inventories made in the Amazon Basin indicate that this family makes up about 25 percent of the standing timber volume there. This would represent an astronomical volume of timber but at present only a very small fraction is being utilized. Obviously, better information would help utilization—especially if that information can result in clear identification of species.

The Sapotaceae represent a well-marked and natural family but the homogeneous nature of their floral characters makes generic identification extremely difficult. This in turn is responsible for the extensive synonomy. Unfortunately, species continue to be named on the basis of flowering or fruiting material alone and this continues to add to the already confused state of affairs.

This paper on <u>Neoxythece</u> is the twelfth in a series describing the anatomy of the secondary xylem of the neotropical Sapotaceae. The earlier papers, all by the same author and under the same general heading, include:

- I. Bumelia--Research Paper FPL 325
- 11. Mastichodendron-Research Paper FPL 326
- III. Dipholis--Research Paper FPL 327
- IV. Achrouteria--Research Paper FPL 328
- V. Calocarpum--Research Paper FPL 329
- VI. Chloroluma--Research Paper 330
- VII. Chysophyllum--Research Paper 331
- VIII. Diploon--Research Paper 349
 - IX. Pseudoxythece--Research Paper 350
 - X. Micropolis--Research Paper 351
 - XI. Prieurella--Research Paper 352

Publication in this manner will afford interested anatomists and taxonomists the time to make known their opinions and all such information is hereby solicited. At the termination of this series the data will be assembled into a single comprehensive unit.

WOOD ANATOMY OF THE NEOTROPICAL SAPOTACEAE

XII. NEOXYTHECE

By

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Forest Products Laboratory, 2/ Forest Service U.S. Department of Agriculture

Introduction

Eyma (6) stated "The name Oxythece Miq. should be regarded as an orthographic variant of Oxytheca Nutt. (Polygonaceae). Consequently, Oxytheca Nutt. 1847, invalidates Oxythece Miq. (1863) as a generic name." On this premise, Aubreville (1) made the new combination Neoxythece which included most of the species of Oxythece, and some species of Pouteria and Chrysophyllum, based on the type species Oxythece leptocarpa Miq. Among others, Aubreville (1,2) made the combinations Neoxythece cladantha (Sandw.) Aubr. and Neoxythece elegans (A. DC.) Aubr.

Later, Bachni (4) made Oxythece leptocarpa Miq. the type of his monotypic genus Ichthyophora; Pouteria cladantha Sandw. was placed in Richardella and Neoxythece elegans (A. DC.) Aubr. was placed in the pan-tropical genus Planchonella. Needless to say, a bit confusing.

The species of Neoxythece as circumscribed by Aubreville comprise a group of closely related species as indicated by the wood anatomy; for this reason the name Neoxythece has been adopted.

It should be mentioned here that Oxythece ferreiri Cronquist (5) properly belongs in Elacoluma glabrescens (Mart. & Eichl.) Aubr. The literature refers to the affinities of these two genera, but from the standpoint of wood anatomy they are very different (figs. 7-8). One of the most outstanding physical differences is the specific gravity; the available specimens of Elacoluma average 0.55 while those of Neoxythece average 1.05.

- 1/ Pioneer Research Unit, Forest Products Laboratory.
- 2/ Maintained at Madison, Wis., in cooperation with the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

It was originally intended to describe <u>Caramuri</u> (1) as a separate genus but it became evident that the available specimens could not be separated from <u>Neoxythece</u> with any degree of reliability and are here considered as belonging to the latter genus. It appears that the monotypic <u>Pseudoxythece ambelaniifolia</u> (Sandw.) Aubr. based on Sandwith 372 from Guyana also belongs here.

Description

Based on 31 named specimens of <u>amazonica</u>, <u>cladantha</u>, <u>crassifolia</u>, <u>duca</u>, <u>elegans</u>, <u>gabrielensis</u>, <u>guianensis</u>, <u>robusta</u>, <u>schulzii</u>, and 19 specimens which were assigned to this genus on the basis of wood anatomy (table 1).

General: Wood light brown, drab, without luster. No distinction in color between heartwood and sapwood with the exception of Forest Dep. 3229 which has a very dark brown heartwood. Growth rings indistinct or lacking. Wood heavy to very heavy, the specific gravity of individual specimens ranging from 0.85 to 1.33 with a generic average of 1.05.

Anatomical:

Pores in radial-echelon arrangement (figs. 1,3,5). Solitary pores present but most commonly are in radial multiples of 2-5 and very occasionally in multiples of 5-7. The long chains frequently observed with a hand lens will be found, upon microscopic examination, to consist of multiples separated by a single layer of fiber or tracheids or both. Maximum tangential pore diameter of individual specimens ranges from 87 µm in cladantha to 236 µm in an unassigned specimen (Krukoff 6841). Pores attaining maximum diameters of more than 200 µm were found in specimens of amazonica and dura. Average maximum diameter of all specimens examined was 158 µm.

Vessel member length averages 900 µm for all species; shortest average 800 µm in cladantha and longest in named specimens of robusta and dura. The longest average of 1.14 mm was from an unassigned specimen (Krukoff 1065). Tyloses commonly sclerotic and usually very abundant in the densest woods. Intervessel pit-pairs up to 6 µm in diameter in cladantha, elegans, guianensis, and caramuri; to 8 µm in the other species. Perforations simple.

Axial parenchyma banded, the individual bands varying from 1-3 seriate; occasionally the bands may be somewhat meandering and discontinuous (figs. 1-6). The individual cells frequently with brown contents. Silica occasionally present and then confined to the cells with brown contents. Rhombic and microcrystals not observed. Cell walls of normal thickness even though the density of some specimens was very high.

Wood rays uniseriate in cladantha and several unassigned specimens; 1-2(3) seriate in the other specimen examined; heterocellular. Vertical fusions common. The maximum body height of the 2-3 seriate portions ranges from 79 µm to 552 µm; very inconsistent within and between species and of no diagnostic value. Vessel-ray pitting irregular in shape and size. Silica common in the wood rays and confined to cells containing brown, organic contents. The silica particles are commonly spheroidal and range in size from 10 µm to 30 µm in individual specimens. Silica content of the wood of individual specimens ranges from 0.05 to 1.56 percent of the ovendry weight of the wood (table 2). Crystals were not observed in the rays.

Wood fibers very thick walled; the fiber length averages for the different specimens range from 1.34 mm to 2.32 mm with an overall average of 1.79 mm. Vascular tracheids common.

Diagnostic features: Wood drab, light brown; very heavy, most wood collection specimens sink in water. Pores in radial-echelon arrangement; parenchyma banded. Silica present and usually distinct in the wood rays. Vascular tracheids common.

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Wood anatomy of neotropical Sapotaceae: KII. Neoxythece, by B. F. Kukachka. Res. Pap. FPL 353, FPL, For. Serv., USDA. 9 p. Madison, Wis. The genus Neoxythece consists of a small number of species concentrated in the Amazon and northern South America. Anatomically and physically the woods investigated here appear to be a very closely related group. Woods of Caramuri could not be antatomically distinguished from Neoxythece and have been included in the latter.

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Table 1. -- Wood specimens of Neoxythece examined in this study

100mm 100

Species	Collector and number	Source	Wood collection numbers
amazonica (Krause) *	Froes 83	Brazil	A 27364
	Froes 214	Brazil	A 27405
	Froes 224	Brazil	A 27408
cladantha (Sandw.) Aubr.	Forest Dep. 3229	Guyana	SJR 43722
	Schulz 7437	Surinam	MAD 32947
	Stahel 134 A	Surinam	SJR 42448
aff. cladantha	Froes 1065	Bahia, Brazil	A 28009
	Froes 1072	Bahia, Brazil	A 28016
crassifolia (Miq.)*	Froes 95	Brazil	A 27369
	Froes 151	Brazil	A 27377
	Froes 832	Brazil	A 27534
dura (Eyma) Aubr. & Pellegr.	Forest Dep. 3556 Froes 184 Froes 289 Froes 312 LLB-Maas 10802 Maguire et al. 41782	Guyana Brazil Brazil Brazil Surinam Venezuela	SJR 43816 A 27388 A 27442 A 27455 MAD 32972 SJR 52391
elegans (A. DC.) Aubr.	Wurdack-Adderley 43203	Venezuela	SJR 54203
	Froes 263	Brazil	A 27429
	Wurdack-Monachino 39661	Venezuela	SJR 50036

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Table 1.--Wood specimens of Neoxythece examined in this study--continued

Species	Collector and number	Source	Wood collection numbers
gabrielensis Aubr.	Froes 397 Maguire et al. 41874	Brazil Venezuela	A 27493 SJR 52427
guianensis (Miq.)	Froes 354	Brazil	A 27485
robusta (Mart. & Eichl.) Aubr. & Pellegr.	BAFOG 1287 Froes 208 Froes 387 Maguire-Politi 28630 Schulz 7425 Stabel 30	French Guiana Brazil Brazil Venezuela Surinam	MAD 32967 A 27402 A 27491 S.JR 52256 MAD 32946 MAD 19558
	Stahel 307	Surinam	S.JF "3AL 43303
schulzii Aubr.	Schulz 7327	Surinam	4AE 32944
Wood speciment	specimens assigned to Meoxythece on basis of wood anatomy	sis of wood anatomy	

(Fage 2 of 3)

S.JR 55707 MAD 37896 MAD 37897 MAD 37898 S.JR 42951 S.JR 43225

Venezuela Colombia

Colombia Colombia Colombia

> Cabrera 9 Cuatrecasas 15791 Cuatrecasas 17402

Breteler 5105 Cabrera 7 Cabrera 8 Colombia

Table 1.--Wood specimens of Neoxythece examined in this study--continued

in.

	Collector		000M
Species	and	Source	collection
	number		numbers

Wood specimens assigned to Neozythece on basis of wood anatomy

		Brazil SJR 36916						
From 87	From 581	Krukoff 6841	Krukoff 7049	Krukoff 7191	Maguire et al. 55362	Persaud 21	Persaud 105	Rosa 1612

Oxythere rigidopsis Monachino was excluded from consideration here because of its very small pores (max. 69 µm) in diffuse arrangement. Its status is unknown at present.

Specimens previously assigned to Caramuri but which apparently belong here are:

INPA 560	S.JR 36843	S.JR 36871	MAD 21489
Erazil	Erazil	Erazil	Erazil
Coetho 5118	Krukoff 6717	Krukoff 6785	Pires et al. 51736

Alt is not known at this time whether these new combinations have been made.

Table 2, -- Silica content

	Collector		Wood	Percent
Species	and number	Origin	specimen	silica
amazonica	Froes 83	Brazil	A 27364	0.67
cladantha	Forest Dep. 3229	Guyana	SJR 43722	
	Schulz 7437	Surinam	MAD 32947	
	Schulz 7528	Surinam	MAD 32951	. 96
	Stahel 134 A	Surinam	SJR 42448	. 24
crassifolia	Froes 832	Brazil	A 27534	.84
dura	Forest Dep. 3556	Guyana	SJR 43816	.73
	Froes 289	Brazil	A 27442	. 20
	Maguire et al. 41782	Venezue la	SJR 52391	. 35
elegans	Froes 263	Brazil	A 27429	.49
gabrielensis	Froes 397	Brazil	A 27493	. 18
	Maguire et al. 41874	Venezuela	SJR 52427	.30
guianensis	Froes 354	Brazil	A 27485	.84
robusta	BAFOG 1287	French Guiana	MAD 32967	. 34
	Schulz 7425	Surinam	MAD 32946	.59
	Stahel 307	Surinam	MAD 19819	. 10
schulzii	Schulz 7327	Surinam	MAD 32944	, 04
sp.	Cabrera 7	Colombia	MAD 37896	.59
sp.	Cuatrecasas 17482	Colombia	SJR 43225	. 05
sp.	Froes 1065	Brazil	A 28009	. 10
sp.	Froes 1072	Brazil	A 28016	.31
sp.	Krukoff 6841	Brazil	MAD 12686	
sp.	Krukoff 7049	Brazil	MAD 12797	
sp.	Krukoff 7191	Brazil	MAD 12859	.21
Caramurí	Coelho 5118	Brazil	INPA 560	.45
	Krukoff 6717	Brazil	SJR 36843	. 70
	Krukoff 6785	Brazil	SJR 36871	
	Pires et al. 51796	Brazil	MAD 21489	.45

The author is indebted to Martin F. Wesolowski, Chemist, Forest Products Laboratory, for the silica analysis.

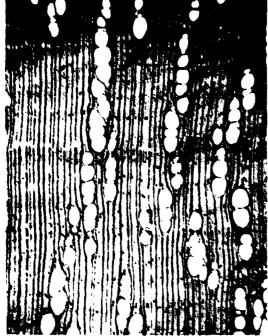


Figure 1.--Neoxythece dura (For. Dep. Guyana 8856), pore and parenchyma arrangement X30.



Figure 2.--Same showing parenchyma detail X 110.

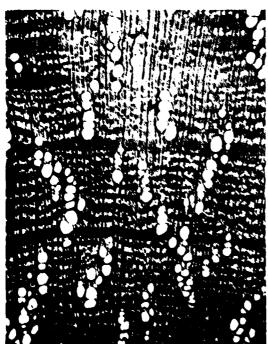


Figure 3.7-N. elegans (Wurdack-Adderley 43203), pore and parenchyma arrangement X30.

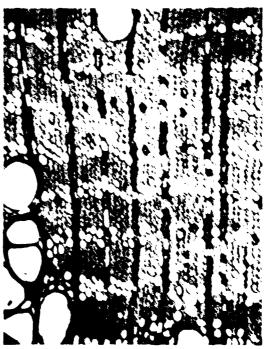


Figure 4. -- Same showing parenchyma detail X110.

691 61 % 08

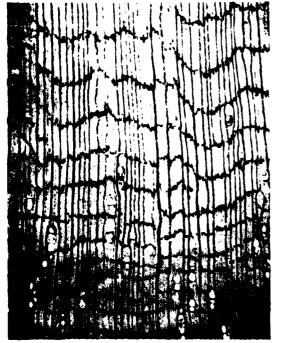


Figure 5.--N. cladantha (For. Dep. Guyana 3229), pore and parenchyma arrangement X 30.



Figure 6.--Same as figure 5 showing parenchyma detail and sclerotic tyloses X110.



Figure 7.--Elaeoluma glabrescens (Rodrigues-Coehlo 2476) reticulate parenchyma, small pores, and growth rings X30.

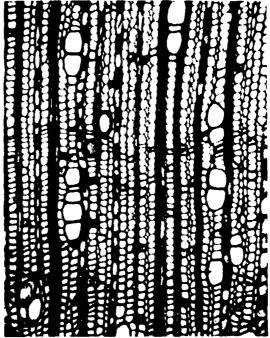


Figure 8.--Same showing parenchyma detail and thin-walled fibers X 110.

★ U.S. Government Printing Office: 1979-652-848